

(12) **UK Patent Application** (19) **GB** (11) **2 208 263 A**  
(43) Date of A publication 22.03.1989

(21) Application No 8718095.6

(22) Date of filing 30.07.1987

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(51) INT CL<sup>4</sup>  
**A41B 9/00**

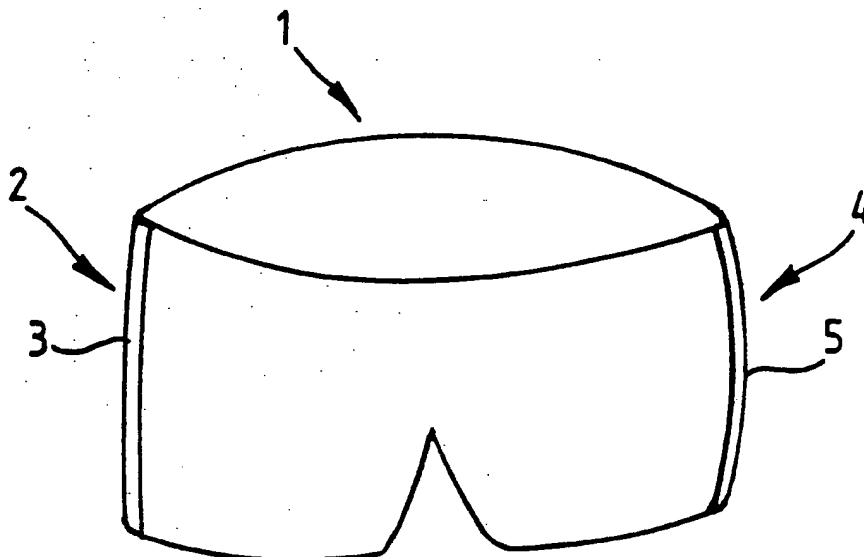
(52) UK CL (Edition J)  
**A3V V1B3A1 V1B3A2 V1B3B**

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(58) Field of search  
**UK CL (Edition J) A3V**  
**INT CL<sup>4</sup> A41B**

(54) **Underwear**

(57) An article (1) of underwear (e.g. a pair of briefs, drawers, knickers, pants, or shorts) comprises at least one quick release fastener (3, 5) for joining or unjoining at least two portions (2, 4) of the article so as to aid or enable application to, or removal of the article from a person. The fastener may be a hook and loop fastener. The article may have a left hip portion and a right hip portion, each having at least one respective hook and loop fastener. The article may contain at least one sanitary item, e.g. for receiving a discharge from a person.



**FIG.1.**

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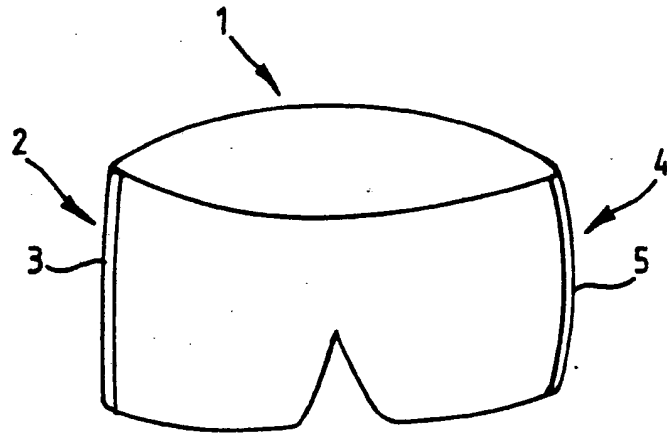


FIG. 1.

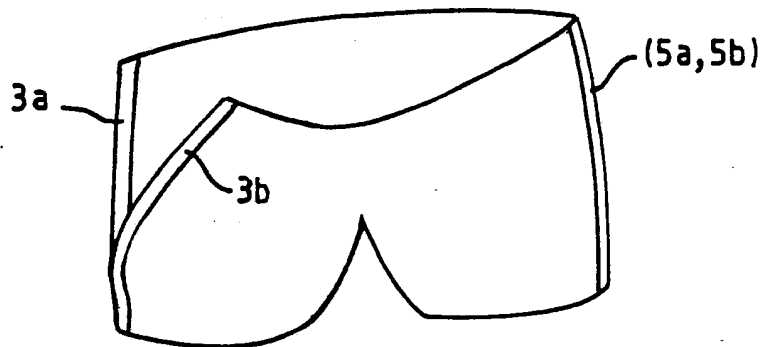


FIG. 2.

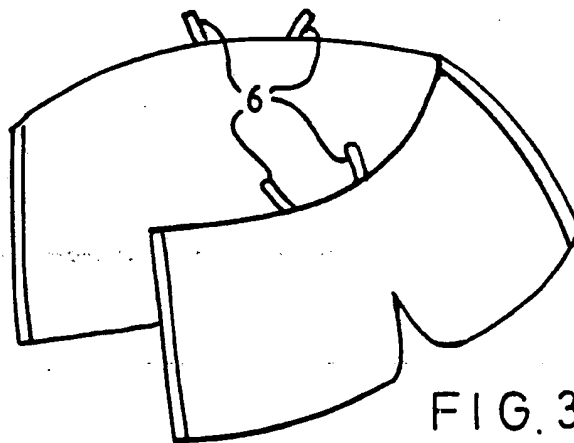


FIG. 3.

UNDERWEAR

Underwear may be worn by persons. Examples of underwear are articles of clothing to be worn next to a person's skin. Application to, or removal from, a person of an article of underwear may be difficult if the person is in a state to hinder the application or removal. For example, a dead, handicapped, ill, or injured person may be difficult to handle in applying or removing an article of underwear that is intended to be worn next to a person's skin. Such difficulty may be acute if an article of underwear is to be worn next to the skin of the loins or lower body region of a person. Such an article may be a pair of briefs, drawers, knickers, pants, or shorts.

I have found that the above difficulties may be overcome or reduced by providing the article of underwear with at least one fastener adapted to aid joining or unjoining of at least two portions of the article.

According to the present invention, an article of underwear comprises at least one fastener for joining or unjoining at least two portions of the article so as to aid or enable application to, or removal from, a person of said article, wherein the fastener is a quick release fastener.

The invention may be embodied in any suitable manner. Preferably, the quick release fastener is a hook and loop fastener available under the registered trade mark VELCRO. A hook and loop fastener is especially but not exclusively suitable when an article of underwear has at least one hip portion for covering at least one hip region of a person. Preferably, the left hip portion and right hip portion of such an article each have at least one respective hook and loop fastener.

Also according to the invention, the article of underwear may be adapted to contain at least one sanitary

item, e.g. for receiving a discharge from the person,  
for instance a sanitary towel. The article may  
comprise any suitable fastener(s) for fastening said  
item(s) to the article, e.g. tabs for releasably  
5 providing that fastening.

Some examples of articles of underwear according to  
the invention are pairs of briefs, drawers, knickers,  
pants, or shorts, for females or males. An article  
of underwear according to the present invention may be  
10 single sexed, i.e. intended only for females or males;  
or be bisexed, i.e. intended for females and males.  
For example, a pair of shorts may or may not have a fly  
front.

In the accompanying drawings, which are by way of  
15 example of the present invention:  
Fig. 1 is a front view of a closed pair of under shorts.  
Fig. 2 is a partly opened view corresponding to Fig. 1.  
Fig. 3 is a fully opened view corresponding to Fig. 2.

In the drawings, a pair of shorts 1 is made from  
20 cotton/polyester fabric. The left side or hip portion 2  
of the shorts has a hook and loop fastener 3 comprising  
a strip 3a of hook members and a strip 3b of loop  
members, available under the registered trade mark  
VELCRO. The right side or hip portion 4 of the shorts  
25 has a hook and loop fastener 5 comprising a strip 5a of  
hook members and a strip 5b of loop members, identical  
with hook and loop fastener 3. The shorts 1 have  
optional fastener tabs 6 for fastening a sanitary towel  
(not shown) in the shorts. It will be appreciated that  
30 the shorts may be made so as to be intended for use by  
only a female or a male, or for use by females and males.  
Thus, it is possible for the tabs 6 to be absent or  
replaces by other suitable fastener(s).

The underwear shown in the accompanying drawings  
35 may be modified, e.g. according to the description  
given above before the first reference to the drawings.

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The invention includes equivalents and modifications arising from all the disclosures within the present specification and its drawings.

CLAIMS

1. An article of underwear, comprising at least one quick release fastener for joining or unjoining at least two portions of the article.
- 5 2. An article as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one quick release fastener is a hook and loop fastener.
3. An article as claimed in claim 2, wherein the article has a left hip portion and a right hip portion, each having at least one respective hook and loop fastener.
- 10 4. An article as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, which is a pair of briefs, drawers, knickers, pants, or shorts.
5. An article as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, when adapted to contain at least one sanitary item.
- 15 6. An article of underwear, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.